

MEDICAL AND SURGICAL NOTES.

CHOLERA REMEDIES.—It is stated that, as a rule, French physicians hold to the fungoid theory of cholera, and one of their number is said to have experimented with carbamate of ammonia in cases of this disease with encouraging success. Even it appears that Dr. Désiré looks upon carbamic acid as a prophylactic to be used in the ordinary way of diet during epidemics, in the form of a syrup. When a patient is attacked with cholera, the syrup according to this method, is to be administered, and a dilute solution of the same, with carbamate of ammonia, with enemas injections of the same, and he is so confident as to the efficacy of the remedy that in cases where dissolution is impending he injects a solution of the carbamate of ammonia directly into the veins.

RESPIRATION WHEN ASCENDING MOUNTAINS.—

According to careful experiments made by Mr. Loriot, in the valley of Chamounix, up to a height of about 12,000 feet the respiration is but little troubled, if the precautions are taken of walking with the head low, to diminish the orifices of the air passages, of keeping the mouth shut and breathing through the nose, and of sucking some small substance, as a nut or stone, to increase the salivary secretion. Above this height, the respiration becomes hurried, even when walking slowly, and the tension of the pectoral muscles has become stiff and the ribs were encased; the amount of air which passes through is much less than in the valley, and the amount of oxygen for the purification of the blood is very small. The respiration increases from 64 to 100 according to altitude, and is feeble and weak, the arteries feeling almost empty; the rapid circulation of the blood in the lungs adds the insufficient oxygenation arising from rarefaction of the air, the veins becoming more prominent, especially at the head, giving a heaviness in the head and sleepiness, due to imperfect aeration of the blood.

HOSPITAL HEATING AND VENTILATION.—

Efficient ventilation and uniform warming, with economy in outlay and in maintenance, are the great desiderata in all hospitals. One of the best methods of realizing these, as claimed to have been proved, in some of the most important hospitals in Europe, is the German plan, in which the fresh air is propelled along an air channel, by the operation of a suitable fan, into an air chamber containing a warming apparatus, where it is heated and moistened, and whence it is distributed over the building. An attempt was made in another manner, placed before the Senate, to ascertain the exact amount of air supplied to the building. The amount in the hospitals is 2,200 cubic feet minimum, an hour per bed, and the capacity of heating devices is 1,000 cubic feet per hour, and the pectoral muscles had become stiff and the ribs were encased; the amount of air which passes through is much less than in the valley, and the amount of oxygen for the purification of the blood is very small. The respiration increases from 64 to 100 according to altitude, and is feeble and weak, the arteries feeling almost empty; the rapid circulation of the blood in the lungs adds the insufficient oxygenation arising from rarefaction of the air, the veins becoming more prominent, especially at the head, giving a heaviness in the head and sleepiness, due to imperfect aeration of the blood.

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